



The international organisation dedicated  
to saving the Koala and its habitat

The Hon Jacklyn Trad MP  
Minister for Infrastructure and Planning  
PO Box 15009  
City East, QLD 4002

1<sup>st</sup> March, 2017

Dear Minister Trad,

**Historical Koala Habitat Changes in SEQ since 1788 and the impact of the 2017 South East Queensland Region Plan on Koalas and their survival.**

On behalf of the Australian Koala Foundation I am sending you a detailed graphical analysis of the upcoming changes to landscape in South East Queensland in the Queensland Government's Draft South East Queensland Regional Plan 2016-2041.

They are complex charts but they tell a grim picture. As a result I will, again, call for a moratorium on the clearing of any Koala habitat in South East Queensland until your Government understands the impact on a now functionally extinct Koala population. No other measure than protecting trees will make the grade I am afraid.

Graph 1: Shows vegetation at white settlement (1788) and what was left before the 2009 and 2016 plans were implemented. It shows that clearing/development has occurred preferentially in areas of Preferred Habitat (Primary Habitat +2A). No wonder the Koalas are in trouble. AKF ranks Koala habitat quality according to tree species. Primary Habitat is a suite of tree species - other habitats are comprised by a suite of up to 7 or more species depending on soil type. As habitat quality declines, the available food source declines.

There is only 23.9% of Primary Koala habitat left.

There is only 50.2% of 2A Koala habitat left.

There is only 56.0% of 2B Koala habitat left.

There is 81.6% of 2C Koala habitat left.

There is 93 % of "Other vegetation" left, which by our standards is not suitable for Koalas.

It is clear to the AKF that Koala Primary Habitat has been cleared at twice the rate of 2A and 2B, nearly 3.5 times the rate of 2C, and 4 times the rate of Other Vegetation.

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At all Post Offices across Japan



No wonder the developers are happy.

Graph 2: This shows how much habitat is left from the 1788 habitat baseline as a result of historical clearing (remnant/regrowth), the 2005-2026 SEQ Plan, and the draft 2017 amendments. So, Primary started out with 354,759 hectares before European settlement, and now, as a result of historical clearing there are 84,788 ha left. If all Urban Footprint and Rural Living Areas in the SEQ 2005-2016 plan are developed there will be 73,314 ha left and so on.

Graph 3: Is just Graph 2 with 1788 habitat taken out so you can see more detail. You can see that Primary and 2A continue to decrease while the others stay much the same.

Graph 4: Shows how much is left in each class next to each other to provide additional clarity.

Graph 5: AKF has taken out the 1788 habitat and even a layman can see the picture emerging.

In 1995, when Premier Goss was going to an election, you know the trouble the “Koala road” caused. I did write to Premier Goss forewarning him that he, like his predecessor Premier Forgan Smith in 1927, was going to lose the election because the people had fallen in love with the Koala. 90 years later, I believe your Government knows the Koala is an issue for this upcoming election and that is why you are falling in love with them in other parts of the State. You know what you have done to the Koala – your Minister had to tell the world “it is functionally extinct”.

Since that huge battle 22 years ago, and a lot wiser, I now understand that no amount of science, or cajoling, or good mapping can bring back the Koala. Your Government’s desire to please the development industry is overwhelming and you want it all; habitat that is; you will not be content until we are under concrete and the community knows it.

Minister Miles’ upcoming committee is just a smokescreen for the public to make them feel “they have a say”.

It is clear from these graphs that the development industry, with the help of former and current political leaders, has wiped out the Koala.

History will judge you harshly.



As I read these graphs produced by my team they show me the power of the Koala Habitat Atlas and I now understand why your Department, the Premier and Minister Miles want bad mapping.

It allows destruction like an unstoppable juggernaut.

I have offered in the past to advise you, at least 3 Premiers and countless Environment Ministers, but I now withdraw that offer.

What I have done is asked our mapping partner Omnilink to write offering you the AKF Koala Habitat Atlas maps on a commercial basis. You have a choice to do it better. I wonder what you will do Minister?

Until the Queensland Government has ranked vegetation for the future of South East Queensland, the future of our green space and of course the Koala is grim.

During my analysis, I also noted the enormous amount of farmland that will also go under concrete.

Your Government should be totally ashamed that you would allow fertile soil to be wasted at a time when food security is a worldwide problem. The red soils of this region should be protected at all costs.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Deborah Tabart". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Deborah Tabart OAM  
Chief Executive Officer